



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368 • Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 378-5243 • FAX (208) 378-5262

Contact: Carter Niemeyer or Meggan Laxalt - (208) 378-5243

#01-03

March 16, 2001

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AUTHORIZES KILLING OF WOLF

A female gray wolf was shot and killed by a federal wildlife specialist today, after USDA Wildlife Services confirmed a calf depredation near Mackay, Idaho. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the shooting, noting that the wolf and other pack members had been involved in livestock depredations near Stanley, Idaho, during the summer and fall of 2000.

The wolf, B-23F, was previously an alpha female of the Stanley Basin Pack. She was known to have participated in previous livestock depredations in the Mackay-Clayton-Stanley area, and was not a good candidate for relocation. Recent radio collar monitoring revealed that this animal was known to have traveled widely by herself, joining the loosely-knit Stanley Pack at times.

Federal wildlife specialists confirmed that B-23F committed the depredation alone, and that no other pack members were involved in the incident. "Removal of B-23F is a good example of successful wolf control. This wolf acted alone, was identified through radio-collaring, was not a candidate for relocation, and was selectively removed from the population in a humane manner," said Carter Niemeyer, Wolf Recovery Coordinator.

Wolves in Idaho are making remarkable progress toward recovery. Since the initial reintroduction of 35 wolves into the nonessential, experimental area in northern Idaho in 1995-1996, the gray wolf population has increased to about 191 individuals. Since the reintroduction of wolves, 18 wolves have been lethally removed in Idaho. Niemeyer noted that, "Removing individuals from the population under these circumstances is necessary, and will help us achieve the long-term recovery goals for the species."

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 530 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.